

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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The cutting tool assembly 10 further includes a retainer sleeve, generally indicated at 40 in Figure 6. As seen in figure 5 the retainer is disposed between the shank portion 16 of the cutting bit 12 and the bore 20 of the bit holder, and the retainer closely conforms about the shank portion 16 while allowing the shank portion to rotate within the bore 20. The retainer is cylindrical in shape having a central longitudinal axis and includes a slit 42 extending along the entire axial length of the retainer 40. The retainer 40 includes at least one, but preferably a plurality of inwardly folded over stop tabs 44 which, once assembled, are received within the recessed groove 34 about the circumference of shank. The inwardly folded over stop tabs 44 are generally equally spaced relative to one another about the circumference of the retainer sleeve 40 and extend into the recessed groove 34. When the shank moves outward on account of reverse loading the folded over stop tabs are placed in tension. The applied tensional force during typical reverse loading causes the stop tabs 44 to be elastically deformed. The stop tabs within the limits of elastic deformation of the stop tab material becomes spring loaded. The prior art stop tabs are placed in compression and do not elastically deform. Once the applied reverse load force is removed from the folded over stop tabs 44, the spring-loaded stop tabs 44 displace the shank of the cutting tool inward into an unbiased position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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The invention includes protruding dimples that are designed to require no radial play and, therefore, do not suffer from the same drawback as the prior art. The retainer sleeve 40 also includes at least one, but preferably a plurality of, outwardly directed dimples 46 which project in a direction opposite the inwardly bent over stop tabs 44. The dimples are generally positioned within the same radial plane about the circumference of the sleeve. The dimples project a distance of between about .007-.020 inches beyond the exterior cylindrical surface of the retainer. The raised dimple of one embodiment protruding from the exterior surface has a diameter of between

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.06-.10 inches. The outwardly directed dimples 46 are generally uniformly spaced relative to one another about the circumference of the retainer sleeve 40 and extend into the notch 38 at approximately equally spaced intervals. The retainer sleeve 40 includes a plurality of stop tab openings 48. Each of the dimples 46 are positioned centrally between a pair of stop tab openings 48. The openings 48 each define a general D-shaped aperture. The D-shaped opening has no sharp corners or edges. Every corner of the opening is rounded 47/49 to reduce any stress concentration of mechanical forces applied to the retainer during rotating and loading of the cutting tool. The inwardly directed stop tabs 44 and outward dimples 46 of the retainer sleeve 40 co-act with the recessed groove 34 and annular notch 38 to retain the cutting bit 12 within the bore 20 of the bit holder 18 and to prevent axial removal of the cutting bit during normal use while at the same time the stop tabs 44 permit rotatable movement of the cutting bit within the bore 20. In order for the cutting bit to be removed from the bit holder, enough force must be applied to the retainer dimples 46 for them to overcome the sharp 90-degree corner of the notch 38. The cutting bit assembly of FIG. 5 enjoys improved retention of the bit 12 within the holder 18 while also allowing free rotation of the shank 16 within the bore 20.
